



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/912,564	07/26/2001	Kouichi Aritomo	325772026000	5482

7590 12/31/2003  
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP  
1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD  
SUITE 300  
MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

GRAINGER, QUANA MASHELL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2852

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/9/2564

Applicant(s)

Kowichi' et al.

Examiner

Quana Grainger

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/23/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.
- 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshino (JP 4338990A). The toner replenishing container for supplying toner to an image forming apparatus by Yoshino comprising a container body for storing toner therein; a cap member 12, 13, 15 attached to a mouth of the container body, the cap member 12, 13, 15 having a toner outlet port and a shutter member for opening/closing the toner outlet port; and an indication member removably attachable to the cap member to indicate a kind of toner in the container, even with the toner replenishing container detached from the image forming apparatus wherein the indication member serves as a control member for inhibiting the toner replenishing container from being loaded on a toner supply portion of the image forming apparatus if the indication member does not coincide with a structure of the toner supply portion (Figure 1 and 4; abstract).

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshino (JP 4-

Serial Number: 09/912564  
Art Unit: 2852

338989).

The toner replenishing container for supplying toner to an image forming apparatus by Yoshino comprising a container body for storing toner therein; a cap member 13 attached to a mouth of the container body, the cap member having a toner outlet port and a shutter member for opening/closing the toner outlet port; and an indication member 15, 15a removably attachable to the cap member to indicate a kind of toner in the container, even with the toner replenishing container detached from the image forming apparatus wherein the indication member serves as a control member for inhibiting the toner replenishing container from being loaded on a toner supply portion of the image forming apparatus if the indication member does not coincide with a structure of the toner supply portion (abstract).

***Prior Art of Record***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kusano et al. (2002/0102113), Kasamura et al. (59-126565A), and the publication JP11-30904A teach pertinent prior art.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 3-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
6. Claims 13-20 are allowed.

***Response to Arguments***

Serial Number: 09/912564  
Art Unit: 2852

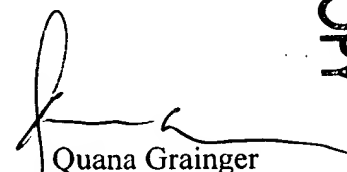
7. Applicant arguments are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

*Conclusion*

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quana Grainger whose telephone number is 703-308-7616. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays between the hours of 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on 703-308-1373. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3431.

  
Quana Grainger  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2852

QG  
December 29, 2003

BEST AVAILABLE COPY